

To: FCC

I am a producer, supporter and volunteer for the Waterford local Media Network. I have some concerns and would like to submit these comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". Franchises make sure that local citizens and communities have some say and control over the telecommunications and media in their area, and that telecommunications companies are accountable to the needs of consumers, Without local franchises local communities will be stripped of an adequate way to make sure companies charge reasonable rates, respond to customer complaints, or that they provide universal service.

Local franchises are also cornerstone in the operation of Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV. Local access TV provides the important service of supporting localism in the media, and the making and airing of programs that reflect the diversity of American life. Local access TV is very important in providing a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and community organizations can express their viewpoints and opinions. Our local access does a lot of school updates and keeps our community up to date on school activities and the likes. Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas possible is made available to all people, and PEG TV plays an important role in doing this. As a supporter of Public Access TV in Waterford, I strongly urge the FCC to honestly look at what is being proposed not their pockets and do the right thing for the public and rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

If it has been a public right of way based on our 1st amendment, if this goes through is not big money corporations BUYING what they want at no concern for the public whom keeps them in business?

Just me,
Michael C Ray